College Library

HAMILTON LIFE

The Weekly Student Publication of Hamilton College

VOL. XI CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1909 No. 19

UNION WINS

On Wednesday evening, Hamilton suffered its first defeat by Union in Basketball—29-20, the score. It was the first game of the trip. The event was held in the huge armory at Schenectady before an unusually large crowd, increased by the many delegates to the Alpha Delta Phi Convention now being held in Schenectady.

The armory was well suited to Basketball, the floor being about the size of our own. But in one way the lack of familiarity with the court was a considerable handicap to the Varsity. The screens behind the baskets were black, and against a black background. Thus the baskets were hard to see, so that many quick shots went wild, at least a dozen of our attempts going over the back-stop. The rules were intercollegiate: the game was clean but too often very slow.

The game: Union scored first on Micks' basket. Roenke followed. Union scored a point from foul. The game went evenly for about five minutes when Allen dribbled the entire length of the floor and caged the ball. Hamilton had unquestionably the better of the play during the latter quarter of the first period, which ended 12-8 in our favor.

The team returned to the floor filled with confidence. Roenke shot an almost impossible basket over his shoulder. Union scored twice. The game began to get faster. Hamilton scored on Getman's shot but Union tripled in fast order, at last tying the score. Hamilton was playing desperately. Regin was substituted for Sherwin at center. Union scored. Hamilton had lost its team work. Union got their signal work going, and in the last three minutes pulled the game out into a decisive victory—29-20. Never had the armory seen such rejoicing that followed.

The line-ups:

UNION 29		HAMILTON 20
Coward	Right Forward	Roenke (Capt.)
Clowe	Left Forward	Allen
Micks	Center	Sherwin (Regin)
Fairburn	Right Guard	Conklin
Brown (Capt.)	Left Guard	Getman

Baskets, Roenke 4, Brown 4, Coward 3, Allen 2, Sherwin 2, Clowe 2, Micks 2, Getman 1 Fairburn 1; from Foul, Coward 5, Getman 2.

Time of halves, 20 minutes.

WILLIAMS WINS

Williams defeated the Varsity on Thursday afternoon at Williamstown, 55-9. The Hamilton points were made by Sherwin 4, Getman 3, Regin 2.

$50,000 FOR HAMILTON

Hamilton College will be the recipient of about $50,000 in the form of a bequest made by the Burgess Estate of New York City. Out of an endowment of $200,000 for educational and charitable purposes, it is expected at present that about $150,000 will be divided evenly among Hamilton College, Columbia University and Barnard College.

RELAY RACE WITH UNION

On Monday night, February 22, the Relay Team, consisting of Captain Spencer, '09, McLean, '09, Knox, '10, Colson, '11, and Wenigmann, '12, will run a one-mile relay race with Union College in the Troy Marathon Athletic Carnival, held in the State Armory. Last year's team, made up of Captain Smith, '08, Babcock, '08, Knox, '10, and Colson, '11, after a month of faithful practice and sacrifice, won from Union and Rensselaer the most exciting event of the games.

The team has reason to expect a victory, for every indication points to a fast race, well under 3.42, last year's time. The men will leave Monday afternoon on the 2:31 train for Schenectady; from thence they will go by trolley to Troy. The team will stay at The Rensselaer.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

The Football schedule in its present form is as follows. The final arrangement will probably be as here printed except for the October 23rd date. There are four possibilities for that day—Syracuse or N. Y. U. away, and Middlebury and St. Lawrence at home. According to Coach Pryor's desire, there will probably be one or two more preliminary games.

Sept. 25. Cazenovia or U. F. A.
Oct. 2. Hobart at Clinton.
Oct. 9. Colgate at Hamilton.
Oct. 16. Rochester at Rochester.
Oct. 23. Syracuse at Syracuse, or Middlebury or St. Lawrence at Clinton.
Oct. 30. Rutgers at Clinton.
Nov. 6. R. P. I. at Troy.
Nov. 13. Union at Clinton.

DR. WOOD IMPROVING

Dr. Wood has been prevented from holding classes this week by an attack of ptomaine poisoning sustained on February 12th. At first the case was deemed serious, but under Dr. Hamlin's care Dr. Wood has been recovering rapidly. The College will be very glad to learn that, in all probability, he will be able to resume his duties on Tuesday.

1911 vs. 1912

Last Friday, in a closely contested game, the Sophomores beat the Freshmen at Basketball by the score 26-24. The line-ups were:

Sophomores 26	Freshmen 24
Flagler	C. D. Root
Right Forward	
Manion	Heidenrich (Hallock)
Left Forward	
Allen	Wenigmann
Center	
Getman	Regin
Right Guard	
Gaige	Knox
Left Guard	

THE FEBRUARY LIT.

A criticism of any literary work should not be regarded as spoken *ex cathedra,* because all opinion as to the merits of any writing depends upon its individual effect on the reader, and consequently judgment varies with the personal equation. With this preface, I will attempt a criticism of the February *Lit.,* not assuming that my remarks will be accepted as final in any sense, but simply to tell how the number "struck" me, as LIFE'S editor put it in his request.

Since the number is opened with verse, that will be considered at once. The poems of this issue do not seem up to the past standards of *Lit.* and, in fact, are uniformly poor. They anticipate the Prom., as they are mainly concerned with the lady beautiful, under various aliases, and they share the usual fate of poetry on this topic written by immature authors, in that they are decidedly mediocre. Nearly all of the verse structure is strained, and unusual, and so distracts attention from the theme, which in most cases needs all the attention that it can get. "And That Is All" is frankly pessimistic—and why, pray? Are there not enough beautiful or entertaining things in the world that can be written on, so that we can avoid inflicting our woes upon others? A Senior in College has no business to wonder "what's the use?" much less write about it. "Compensation" is involved and the repetition of nasal sounds at the end of many lines is unpleasant. However, it makes a good piece to fill in page 231. "Love in Life" is, or tries to be, rather deep and sophisticated. In Gunter's Magazine or in The Blue Book it might do, if appropriately framed with a border of chorus girls' heads and roulette wheels; in the *Lit.* it seems out of place and in poor taste. "Carmen Aetatis" is good. It has a dainty rhythm and is altogether pleasant. So much for the verse.

Of the fiction, Hastings' story, "As in a Glass, Darkly" seems the best. It is very gruesome and tragic, but the climax is there, and the story leads up to it with a deal of naturalness and fidelity to detail. Hastings has the agreeable faculty of being able to stop when he is thru, which at all times is a blessing. "Indian Summer" is not so good, for it is hazy and indistinct, which may be out of kindness to the title of the piece. Much of the dialog is too stilted to be natural, and a vein of extravagance runs thruout; of this, "the beautiful sportive sea careening before her" seems an instance. True, it is unusual, and for this the story may be praised, but Welch has done better. "The Letters of Alicia" are of a piece with Rudd's former work, and as a sample of ladylike satire are perfectly all right, but Rudd should try something else. Even a good thing can be overworked.

The essays are keen and to the point. Plant has a leaning toward long sentences, and as a result gets himself involved with results almost fatal to the sense. But he treats Thackeray's Waterloo cleverly, and accomplishes what he sets out to do. Sheffield's essay on "Beau Brummell" is clear, and what is better, it is new. He makes a rather unpromising subject into quite a hero by his tactful delineation of Beau Brummell's doubtful character.

The Spectral Spectator is as ghostly and indistinct as ever, which seems to be his only excuse and aim. Twenty questions may do in Logic, but they are not wildly interesting to the College at large, especially when they start nowhere and end in the same place. The Hill Notes are as good as usual, and the editorial better, but with it all we cannot agree. For hysterical appeals to the alumni to send men to Hamilton will never get 300 men on the Hill. The student body must do its part and make the undergraduate part of the College an active, militant force. If there is no award of the Soper Thesis Prize, whose fault is it? The alumni surely cannot guide the faltering pen of the undergraduates over the devious paths of a prize essay, and if the College fails to take advantage of its opportunities, that is surely the fault of the students. The cry that there are too many activities at Hamilton does not ring true. I have not forgotten the tempting fireplaces in Carnegie, nor the lure of bridge whist, and I venture the assertion that two-thirds of the men in College waste as much time as they spend on their work. And that makes allowances for the development of friendships which are so important a part of College life. So don't sit back and say there's too much for us to do, and make that an excuse for doing nothing. Get busy—each man doing all that he can in whatever interests him, and the College will take care of itself.

Incidentally, the *Lit.* was pretty good.

—P. B. WILLIAMS, '08.

COACH SUBSCRIPTIONS

Prof. Sicard, who has had charge scriptions for the re-engagement of of the collection of the Football sub-Coach Pryor, reports that the necessary amount, $250, has been entirely paid in, and that the contract is now in the hands of Mr. Pryor for his signature. The sum was subscribed almost equally by the student body and the younger alumni. The alumni subscribers are: F. P. Warfield, '96, B. R. Johnson, '97, F. F. Baker, '00, R. C. S. Drummond, '01, A. S. Hatch, '01, D. W. Redmond, '01, E. E. Stowell, '01, G. L. Stryker, '01, C. G. Signor, '02, W. A. Ferguson, '04, W. P. Soper, '04, R. R. Wicks, '04, R. U. Hayes, '05, E. W. Root, '05, H. L. Stowell, '05, H. C. Bramley, '06, W. M. Brokaw, '06, J. L. LeMunyan, '06, C. Macdonald, '06, J. A. Melrose, '06, R. B. Jerome, '07, R. B. Peck, '07, J. G. Clark, ex-'07, S. M. Jones, '08, S. S. Judson, '08, W. B. Simmons, '08, W. P. Soper, '08.

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Reportorial

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WITH THIS ISSUE "SPOTLIGHT" is introduced to LIFE'S readers as a more courageous "critique" of the College than we have hitherto dared publish. It is a departure—smashing precedent and all that; yet it seems to promise benefit. However, since LIFE belongs to the College, first and last, it invites comment on the innovation, as a strong adverse sentiment will deter us from permanent inauguration of "Spotlight."

IT NOW SEEMS TO BE GENERALLY recognized that the holiday on Washington's Birthday entails the provision that we attend the Chapel lecture of that day. Since we at last realize that attendance IS a duty, to resort to the argument that non-attendance means abolition of the holiday in the future, is unnecessary. The lecture of this year promises to be unusually excellent and should dissipate any perfunctory feeling we might entertain in attending. Dr. G. W. Knox, '74, who will speak Monday, is (as one of our Faculty members puts it) a speaker who will, in a shorter time, say more that will stick with us than any other man one could select. His reputation is international. His many books, some of them in Japanese, have not only won him a high place in the nation but have gained him a Badge of Honor from the Emperor of Japan. AND, he is a Hamilton man!

THE SKATING DURING THE MIDDLE of the week on the snow crust on Steuben field, suggested to several the desirability of an ice rink of some kind on the Hill. Winter term affords too little outdoor activity. Basketball gives exercise to a few, but from health's point of view the open-air sport is better, especially in that it would attract a greater number. Perhaps the sentiment (which is now in embryo) in favor of abolishing Basketball, may be realized. Even if not, the suggested rink would be unquestionably desirable. That it is feasible and of small expense, seems certain. The hollow behind the west grandstand could be flooded very easily Maintenance would hardly be an expense, since such care as would be necessary could be furnished by the men now permanently employed by the College. Providing that the sport would not become infected with the fun-killing "intercollegiate idea," skating would be an excellent addition to Winter term.

IN THE TENTATIVE Football Schedule for next Fall, Syracuse appears as a mid-season possibility. This game was recommended for deletion by the Faculty when the schedule was submitted. LIFE, too, wishes to voice decided objection to that date, feeling that such is the sentiment of the College body. The reasons are these: The plans for next season are being laid to the end of making every condition favorable to success. The season is intended to be a final test—to discover whether the fiascos of the past years have been due to outside circumstances or whether *inherently* the game is impossible here. No effort is being spared to make the test decisive. We have spent an unusually large sum to secure the best coach possible. He has outlined the schedule he wants, and he does not want a game with Syracuse. For this reason, alone, Syracuse should not be played. We played them last year with apparently little injurious result. Yet to that game much of the subsequent failure was attributable. Even more undesirable would be this proposed game, in that it is in mid-season, whereas last Fall's contest occurred at an early date. Too well do we realize that a manager's record is often counted in the dollars he has made for his department. If that *were* the primary end, Syracuse would be desirable. But such an object is specious in general, and especially so this year.

INTRODUCING SPOTLIGHT

To the Editor-in-Chief—

SIR: I have often remarked in your excellent columns the need of illumination, and particularly thruout the sombre stress of Winter term. Now, Sir, if you will grant me an occasional column or two—even tho it be restricted by the gonfalon of Oneida Ale or the Fatima advertisement—I shall try to illumine it for you. My name is yours; divulge it at discretion to your readers. As the beam in my neighbor's eye, it pleases me best to remain incog.—not that I intend the least anonymous malice toward my neighbor, nor that I fear publicity and reprisal, but because I can serve you most wholesomely and effectively from the darkness behind the lantern. I purpose, Sir, to be an honest light—not the sexless violet rays that see malignancies (of *these* we have none, thank Heaven, in our midst) nor the hypocritical arc-light of virtue, but haply a light that may do for your clients and your columns what the sun does for the Campus—to wit, a healthy light, that smiles or darkens impartially to all, and searches lurking germs out of shadowy corners.

I am, Sir, for the present,

SPOTLIGHT.

MOTE AND BEAM. I.

LIFE'S a poor player—hence it needs
A Spotlight on't, to catch the pit—
While LIFE denounces dastard deeds,
The College nods—but waking, reads
Our "College Spirit's" page in *Lit.*
Life is not darkness—College life,
And yet our College *Life* is *not* light
Then to its columns, tumult-rife,
With syllables and sanctum-strife,
Thy sometime sulphide servant—

SPOTLIGHT.

The tyranny of Professor HAWKINS in ejecting from class a Junior who prattled on after repeated warnings, and who delicately expressed his opinion of such warnings by yawning audibly in the new Professor's face, was very properly rebuked when the leading lights of the class rose in unison and followed the martyr from the room. Most of the older members of the Faculty would have excused this disturber upon his first offense, with their action tacitly approved by the entire division and by the disturber himself, but a new Professor, unused to "Thy good old ways" must be properly curbed at the outset, regardless of any inference he may draw that our boasted class spirit is rowdyism. Some doting oracles had opined over the hysop that the near and dear tie of the Juniors was changed from a destructive underclass impetuosity to the deep constructive bond of loyal manhood, but these forbodings were groundless. The men of 1910 will never change.

* * * * *

Unprovok'd, the Junior comics
Bolted HAWKINS' "Economics."
Prep-school trick, or parlous near it—
Yet, God help ye! *that's* Class Spirit!

* * * * *

Spotlight has been accustomed to see in WISEHART'S literary endeavors a Quixotic windmill-fighter who himself supplied the breeze to the wheels of his undoing, but Mr. Wisehart has at last vindicated his abilities, and Spotlight wishes to be first in acknowledging—without sarcasm or reservation—that the Wisehart appearance in Chapel a week ago was the best written and presented essay the Chapel stage has known in many a weary month. Perhaps Mr. Wisehart overdid the thing a little, but his sincere attempt at a rational delivery, free from the manuscript, deserves the emulation of all future readers. Generations of Hamilton men have risen piously, once a term, nose glued to page, and droned platitudes on every conceivable theme at the slumbering Chapel. Now, if we *must* have essays at all, let us write them around live subjects, and read them to the Chapel with an attempt at intelligent presentation—as did Mr. Wisehart. Personally, Spotlight believes that an "unpipped" discussion on an assigned subject, teaching the student to think and talk on his feet, which is the only sort of "rhetorical" he will ever employ in life, might well supplant—But that's another story, and it's contrary to No. 964,972 in the Blue Book of Hamilton Precedents.

* * * * *

Good masters reflect, nor thy plaudits refuse—
How strangely doth Nature disguise Art!
At length, *in extremis,* the wearying Muse
Hath granted a triumph to WISEHART!

—SPOTLIGHT.

—Blodgett, '09, and Mix, '10, are the Hamilton delegates attending the Alpha Delta Phi Convention, held at Union University, this week.

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Local Department

E. P. Glover, Local Editor.

—Hamilton Sophomores play Colgate 1911, at Hamilton, February 22, and at Clinton, March 1st.

—Woollcott, '09, Barber, Fiske, Swift, '10, and Getman, '11, will attend the Convention, of the Theta Delta Chi, to be held in Boston, next week.

—Last Tuesday afternoon, in attempting to do the high-jump, from the spring board, "Uncle John," sprained his ankle, very seriously.

—At a class meeting, Monday morning, 1910 decided, instead of organizing the Junior Whist Club, to hold a Beefsteak Banquet, in Utica, early in March. A committee, consisting of Stone, *Chairman*, Engs, C. H. Hall and Ondarcho, had charge of the affairs.

ODOACER, 476 A. D.

"The last of Rome!
And from our home
We'll never roam
Rome-ward—
Again." —*Caesar.*

So sang the gay musicians on their return from the classy-city on Tuesday night. They went as heroes: they came as Neros, convicted that the mere flame of art and youth could never set the infernal city on fire. For the geniuses were sore. They realized that the Roman concert of February XVI, M DCCCC IX, would go down into these immortal commentaries as *the* blue-letter concert—blue right thru—except for a sporadic dash of red Pepper.

It was thus: On Tuesday afternoon the men donned their togas (togæ?)—all out of crease from Junior Week, *et al*, strapped their chest-plates that shone not as they had when first from Westcott's, and slid down the Hill. They crossed the Tiber—but haply the Rubicon was an anachronism. They reached the little burg—Clintonum—from whence the U. & M. V. R. R.'s special chariot was to waft them to Rome, leaving at VI-X. It was sleet. The wires were down and the trees looked like the ghosts of last summer's verdant sentinels. At VI-X no special came. Hence the regular VI-XXX chariot was boarded and XXXV strong they started toward Utica. At about VII they reached Yahnundasis, where they found that special—waiting. They transplanted themselves, happy that they had, at last, started. About XXX minutes' ride and the valiants saw some lights. They looked again, and realized that they were in *Clintonum!* The conductor had carried his message to Garcia! He had been ordered to take the chariot to Clintonum—he had done it! Realizing this, and the dearth of funny men on the clubs, an attempt was made to enlist the conductor to split sides in Rome; but, being the man behind, he was imperiously impervious. After tying up in Clintonum till the regular VII-XXX cart had arrived, the journey was at last started, and Rome was reached somewhat after IX. The concert was to commence sharply at VIII flat, but being a highly stormy evening out, the clubs decided not to wait, but immediately took the field and began the desperate battle. When the first smoke cleared the generals surveyed their enemy. These were ambuscaded behind the heavy seats of the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium. At first survey, victory looked like a lead pipe, for by accur-S count there were LI in the orchestra and XI in the balcony—making in all LXII. More had been among the hostile ranks, but had left thru fear—preferring to battle the weather than fight against clubs so well reputed. Yet, tho there were but LXII, conquest was soon found impossible.

The enemy's phalanx, tho scattered, was impregnable. They had the faces of Stoic (or stogie) statues, and their hands were iron—soldered to the arms of their chairs. Mulligan's Musketears made an abortive attack; Jenks' Compound had no effect whatever. The Three Twins did well, and the Devil's Patrol almost melted their hands; but Hastings, owing to lack of vocal weapon, could not put them into "Love's Dilemma." The Boston Ideal March was, as usual, a mere dress parade without success, tho its mechanical monotony almost put the enemy to sleep. The Tutti Frutti quite got them on the run; but just when things looked good, Anibal and Burdick, X, entered, and increased the enemy's forces to LXIV.

Woollcott (his Phalanx in N. J.) tried to brain the foe her-culeanly with a monolog. Being futile, the invaders resorted to strategy, sifting here and there among the ranks—slyly seeking to lead the Romans into capitulation by well-placed laughs and ardent applauses. Why this sally was vain was incomprehensible, until it was discovered that Krumbholz, IX, had just come in, making the enemies an even LXV. Sarles sicked his Vagabond upon them with strength. Yet, tho he had never done it so well (probably due to the absence of his normal over-caution) still he was balked. An Old Rat's Tail failed to tickle them; but the Melodies almost melted most. The Campus Medley was not martius enough. Carissima, however, got a rise out of many of them. Then, covered with smoke, with the laurels of the past in their pipes, but no green ones on their helmets, the clubs returned to the citadel. On the way the men sang Up-di-addle de-up-di-ee and sang it so often that at last they would stand and raise their hats thereat each time, for they had got to thinking that it was their Alma Mater—which last is really Latin.

A LIBERAL OFFER

F. K. Briggs, of Utica, makes an offer to Hamilton College men that will enable them to have a Banjo Club. In the nineties Hamilton had a fine Banjo Club, Mr. Briggs has instructed them for several seasons and has had pupils represented on the Club for 12 years.

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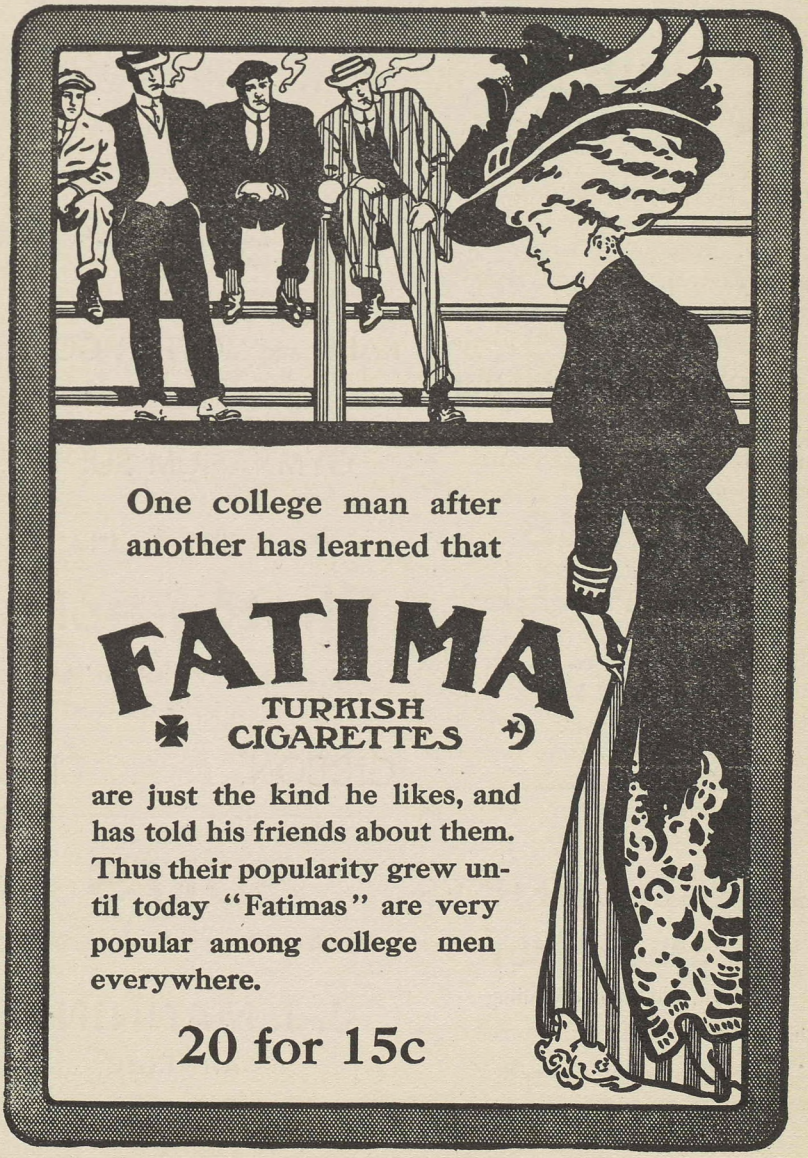

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